

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced today that the fiscal year 2008 federal funding for various Hampshire and Hampden County organizations has been passed by Congress. Congressman Olver is a member of the Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee. Olver declared, "This federal funding will help our excelling organizations in the Pioneer Valley continue to grow and thrive. The projects and their included dollar amounts are:

\$294,000 for Westfield Vocational-Technical High School Manufacturing Program

The funding will go toward the immediate need to replace outdated and unsafe precision manufacturing equipment. "If we don't provide additional resources to upgrade technology and equipment and help local vocational schools, we are putting our future at risk," Olver said.

For more information about this project, contact: Clement Fucci, of the Manufacturing Technology Center, 413-528-1234.

\$259,700 for the Amherst Cinema Arts Center

This funding will help purchase the new Amherst Cinema Arts Center, an addition to the historic Amherst Cinema. "The Amherst Cinema Arts Center is giving the town and region an economic boost by making Amherst a more vibrant and attractive place to live and visit," Olver said.

For additional information about this project, contact: Carol M. Johnson, Executive Director, 413-528-1234.

\$1.47 million for Route 116 improvements

This project will realign a 9400 foot section of Mass. State Route 116 from the Amherst/Granby town line to the Amherst/Hampden County line. Traffic volume in this area is high as a result of visitors and traffic from throughout the region, because of the scenic views and historic sites. "This stretch sees quite a lot of traffic, and these blind spots and sharp curves have lead to numerous accidents," Olver said.

For additional information, contact: Gilford B. Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works Town of Amherst, 413-528-1234.

\$980,000 for I-91 ITS

This funding will be used to install telecommunication equipment along I-91.

"All communities in the Pioneer Valley have the potential of benefitting from this project," Olver said. "This funding will help us move forward with these important projects and ensure the future of our region."

\$282,000 for Western Mass Enterprise Fund (WMEF)

The funding will support the WMEF business lending program, located in Holyoke (in Open Square), wh
"Western Mass Enterprise Fund provides much needed capital in the region to develop and strengthen

For more information, contact: Chris Sykes, Executive Director, WMEF, 413-420-0183.

\$1.9 million for Conte Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition

The funding (actually amount: \$1,968,800) will enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in conjunction
"I am very pleased that I was able to secure funding for the Conte Wildlife Refuge," Olver said. "In light

For additional information about this project, contact: Andrew French, Project Leader, Silvio O. C

\$147,660 for Conte Anadromous Fish Lab in Turners Falls

The funding will support the purchase of equipment to conduct basic and applied research on the effect
"During the Industrial Revolution, many populations of anadromous fishes were severely depleted by da

For additional information about this project, contact: Steve Garabedian, Ph.D., Branch Chief, Silvio O.

\$1,378,160 for Connecticut River Combined Sewer Overflow work

This funding will be used to assist communities in meeting federally mandated Administrative Orders to

For additional information on this project, contact: Chris Curtis, Chief Planner and Section Mana

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